

Sunday, December 14, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 450

Short Ride

There were 7 takers for the short ride today. With the weather for the first time for many days being a bit warmer and no ice or rain, the route was set for Wetherby. The group went via Burn Bridge onto the ridge and Kirkby Overblow. We stopped for a photo at the top of the ridge and then pressed onto into Sicklinghall and Wetherby. We regrouped at a number of mini stops to make sure there were no 'backsliders'. So all 7 of us entered Wetherby to find the preferred coffee shop full and then unable to get to the second choice as it was the Wetherby Xmas Fayre or maybe it was a large number of late Xmas shoppers?! So Morrisons it was! We also discovered a group of 4 EG's at Morrisons.....probably an illicit gambling school!

Three riders set off for home a bit earlier as they had pressing engagements..and the remaining 4 set a course via Spofforth and Ridding Park. What would have been a reasonably leisurely ride was made tougher by the now stronger wind and some light rain, even though the BBC weather forecasters had estimated the rain from 2pm.

Mileage was about 23 miles, pretty good for a Short Ride.



Medium Ride

With high winds forecast, we changed the route from hilly to flat and headed in two groups to and through Knaresborough via the Beryl Burton. Justin stood in for the injured Dave P.

A huge abnormal load – a sub-station transformer – held us up for ten minutes on the way to Farnham, where Group 1 saw Group 2 in the distance ahead. Still not sure how they managed to do that.

Then in Burton Leonard, Group 2 hit Group 1 obliquely just entering the Mountgarret estate. How did they do that? So, joyfully together once again, we stayed combined all the way to Hampsthwaite (after the usual lot had left us at Ripley).

There we met up with the Medium Big Boys and Girls who had kindly reserved places for us in Sophie's. (Message for the WE management –Sophie hasn't got her WE calendar yet.)

All except the bepunctured Justin (who got safely home), left Hampsthwaite in light rain. David wore his invisibility cloak to secretly overtake the ride leader (who, for some reason, was at the back). Said leader retraced his steps, searching for the "missing" David in ditches, etc. But, with cloak removed, he had caught up with the others, leaving Leader to wander back alone. Aah.

About 25 miles, out of the wind. Mostly. Paul B





Seven of us took a somewhat longer route to Sophie's Cafe, heading out on the tarmac lanes. The initial route was disrupted by the extra large load coming through from Boroughbridge towards Scriven and Lingerfield. There were spectators lining the route but not cheering us for some

reason as we made our way to Lingerfield, Farnham, Burton Leonard, Markington, and Shaw Mills, before arriving at Sophies and scrumptious scones and coffee.

Organised as usual, Gia had rung ahead and tables were reserved for us and the main Medium Ride led by Paul who soon joined us. Then it was homeward via different routes. Quite a nice day for December, and a steady 30 odd miles. Martin W.



Medium-Plus Ride

Only five riders on Medium Plus this week - clearly the Leader's magnetic personality is going in to reverse. Used to considering two or even three sub-groups, this one should be easy. Within yards of the Car Park I caused confusion, opting to turn right to follow the new cycle path through Hornbeam Woods to the showground.

It was all plain sailing through Folifoot, Spofforth and Little Ribston but my decision to chat with the back marker led to a route change by those ahead to Cowthorpe instead of the advertised Hunsingore/Cattal. No matter - it was all similar with a following wind. We sped on through Tockwith, Long Marston and attempted to reach Bilborough via a cut-through but were advised by a local walker to keep away - 'there be thorns !!!'. So we reached Bilborough after circling it via Askham Richard.

Crossing the A64, the tea-stop at Bolton Percy was ignored by all - it was only 11 o'clock for heaven's sake. We lost two riders up ahead in Tadcaster and three of us made our way to the cafe in Thorp Arch for heavenly treacle sponge (2) and bacon butty (1). For some reason, unconnected with Carb uptake, but more likely the hills and headwind, the final part through Wetherby, Sicklinghall and Kirby Overblow proved challenging to new tiring legs. Anyway, 48+ miles is a decent spin for this time of year. Peter L

Long Ride

The long ride - Leaving Harrogate, we had enough riders to start a football team including a reserve but Chris, on a welcome return to the ride, left the group at Great Ouseburn. We trundled on to Easingwold where, being aware that the café doesn't open until midday, I decided to add an extra couple of miles to ensure we didn't arrive too early. The prospect of a single track road with grass in the middle proved an unwelcome diversion for the 3M company (Mark, Martin and Mike) who decided to stick together (pun courtesy of Glyn) and headed off on their own route. The remaining eight carried on to Ampleforth arriving at 12:10 for the usual good quality lunch.

The return journey was difficult. The wind which had assisted us to Ampleforth was now set against us. The group began to fracture almost immediately. We all agreed that Peter, Dave and Richard should go on ahead while the remaining five helped each other along as much as possible. Paul on his first long ride returned home in Boroughbridge and Eric found the lure of Morrisons café too strong to resist. So the "group ride at a relaxed pace" finished as three different rides of three

people most of whom will have covered about 65 miles in surprisingly benign weather for the time of year although poor Eric might have got a bit wet. Thanks to all for a really good day out. Phil S